

does not keep more than a day, unless frozen. In this case liquefy, at the moment of using, with a little tepid water. This can only be done once. In using the serum dilute to 1-10 with normal salt solution.

Five per cent suspension of sheep corpuscles. Procure some fresh sheep's blood that is received in a bottle containing iron filings, to prevent clotting, and shaken for ten minutes. At the laboratory decant through a sieve into the tube of a centrifuge, note the height; then centrifuge. Draw off the serum with a pipette and refill to the mark with normal salt solution, shake and again centrifuge; repeat twice and finally fill with normal salt solution to the mark. This diluted to five per cent can be kept on ice several days.

Normal human serum. This can be obtained by puncture of a vein. I prefer placental blood. Heat in a water bath for a half hour at a temperature of 51 to 56 degrees to destroy the complement.

Organic extract. Rub together in a mortar 100 c. c. of alcohol at 96 degrees and 10 gms. of the liver of a syphilitic fetus (I have employed with equal success extract of the heart of a guinea pig prepared in the same way); this mixture is left all night in the shaking machine, and then centrifuged. The decanted liquid remains clear and serves as a mother solution which can be kept on ice. To prepare for the reaction, place in a series of test tubes 0.25, 0.15, 0.10, 0.05, 0.025, 0.015 c. c. of the mother solution, and normal salt solution to make 1 c. c. in each tube. Control with a tube containing 1 c. c. of normal salt solution. To each of these seven tubes add 1 c. c. of 1-10 guinea pig serum, then 0.2 c. c. of inactive human serum. Place the tubes in the incubator at 37 degrees for thirty minutes, and at the end of that time add to each tube 1 c. c. of the suspension of sheep corpuscles and replace in the incubator for two hours. As each tube contains 1 c. c. it is only necessary to see in which tubes the contents are dissolved, to know the correct dilution of the organic extract: 1-4, 1-7, 1-10, 1-20, 1-40, 1-70. The liquid ought to remain clear in the control tube; if not the guinea pig serum is not fresh, or the human serum contains fats. Let us suppose that in the preceding experiment the contents of the three first tubes were not dissolved. The necessary dilution for serum diagnosis would be 1 c. c. of 1-20. The test should be then repeated with 1-10, 1-20, 1-30, and the serums of several subjects healthy and syphilitic to be certain of the correct dilution.

Serum of the patient. This is obtained by bleeding or with a hollow needle from the forearm, after constricting the upper arm with a band. Separate the clot, centrifuge, draw off the serum, and inactivate.

The reagents being prepared we now take four test tubes and fill in the following manner:

1. Tube principal.	
Serum of patient.....	0.2 c. c.
Organic extract (standard).....	1.0
Serum of guinea pig.....	1.0
2. Tube for control.	
Serum of patient.....	0.2 c. c.
Normal salt solution.....	1.0
Serum of guinea pig.....	1.0
3. Tube principal for comparison.	
Normal serum	0.2 c. c.
Organic extract (standard).....	1.0
Serum of guinea pig.....	1.0
4. Tube to control comparison.	
Normal serum	0.2 c. c.
Normal salt solution.....	1.0
Serum of guinea pig.....	1.0

After shaking the four tubes place for a half hour in the incubator at 37 degrees, then add 1 c. c. of the suspension of sheep corpuscles to each tube, and observe the course of the reaction in the incu-

bator. Generally the contents of tubes 2 and 4 dissolve within thirty minutes and the liquid becomes clear. Hemolysis appears soon in tube 3. When the blood of tube 1 dissolves almost in the same time as that of tube 3 the patient is healthy. If the contents of tube 1 do not dissolve, the patient is syphilitic. Some deviations from the normal course of the reaction may occur: (1) The contents of tube 1 may dissolve imperfectly. In this case repeat with tubes 1 and 2 with 0.15, 0.10 and 0.05 c. c. of the patient's serum seeking a combination so that the contents of tube 1 remain intact, and those of tube 2 dissolve entirely. (2) If this does not occur add to tubes 1 and 2, 0.1 to 0.2 c. c. of normal human serum. This is done at the same time that sheep corpuscles are added, but it can be done a quarter or a half hour after, and so it can be added when one is sure that the contents of tube 2 do not dissolve. In general we begin first with the addition of 0.1 c. c. of normal serum whose dissolving power is proved by the hemolysis established in tubes 3 and 4; if the dissolution is not perfect, try again with 0.2 c. c.. (3) The addition of 0.2 c. c. of normal human serum, and even of a larger amount is necessary when examining the serum of infants less than six months old.

In conclusion: Tubes 3 and 4 serve to prove, (a) that the presence of organic extract does not prevent the dissolution of corpuscles in the mixture; (b) that the serum of the guinea pig is not altered. Tube 2 serves to show, on one hand that the serum of the patient does not contain substances preventing the dissolution of sheep corpuscles and, on the other hand, that it contains sensitizing substances. It is essential to find for tube 2 the dose of normal human serum exactly dissolving; this ought always to be the same as that of tube 1.

(Dr. J. Bauer, Asst. in the pediatric clinic of the Academy of Medical Practice in Dusseldorf.)

COUNTY SOCIETIES

BUTTE COUNTY.

The regular monthly meeting of Butte County Medical Society met Tuesday evening, January 12, at the offices of Dr. P. E. Bullington; following members present: Drs. N. T. Enloe, P. F. Bullington, H. Morel, M. P. Stansbury, Ella F. Gatchell of Chico, and Dr. L. L. Thompson of Gridley.

Drs. H. Morel, Hal. M. Parker of Chico, and S. Iglick and Samuel A. Goldman of Orland, were admitted to membership.

A paper on pneumonia by Dr. P. F. Bullington was read by Dr. Thompson; the discussion was opened by Dr. M. Stansbury and participated in by other doctors.

Voted that the Society petition the Governor to reappoint Dr. N. K. Foster as Secretary of State Board of Health, and Dr. M. Stansbury was appointed a committee to obtain signatures to the petition.

ELLA F. GATCHELL, Secretary.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY.

The regular monthly meeting of the Sacramento Society was held on the evening of December 15, 1908, Dr. E. C. Turner being the host. Dr. D. A. Kellogg of Sacramento was unanimously elected a member. The society instructed its Secretary to write Dr. Grant Selfridge of San Francisco to attend its next meeting. The report of the Hospital Investigation Committee was received, and at a special meeting held one week later, was adopted. This report advised the employment of a pharmacist at the County Hospital, accommodations for more nurses and better accommodations and food for tubercular patients and a change from the present system to that of a resident superintendent with a visiting staff. A paper on "Typhoid Fever" was

read by Dr. Turner and discussed by members of the Society, lead by Drs. Twitchell and Jones, after which the meeting adjourned.

E. C. TURNER, Secretary.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY.

The San Bernardino County Medical Society at its regular meeting in December elected the following officers: W. P. Burke, President; Hoell Tyler, Vice-President; T. M. Blythe, Second Vice-President; Gayle G. Moseley, Secretary, and Wm. A. Taltaval, Treasurer.

The Society has taken up the post graduate course as outlined by the American Medical Association and is now meeting weekly instead of monthly as heretofore. The first meeting was well attended and the members very enthusiastic in regard to the course. The subject of the evening was Anatomy and Physiology of the Heart, which subjects were well presented by Drs. Power and Hill.

G. G. MOSELEY, Secretary.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY.

The regular monthly meeting of the San Joaquin County Medical Society met at the parlors of the Imperial Hotel as the guest of Dr. Hull, Friday evening, January 29, 1909, with the president, Dr. J. P. Hull, in the chair and the following members present: Drs. Nelson, Tower, Smythe, Tully, Latta, Gibbons, Hammond, Hull, Walker, Harry, Hoisholt, Taylor, Goodman, Knight, Friedberger, F. P. Clarke, A. E. Arthur, Blackman, Hopkins and M. Smyth.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The committee on admissions reported favorably on the application of Dr. Wm. Friedberger, and he was declared elected. The name of Dr. S. N. Cross was proposed for membership and the application was referred to the committee on admission.

The question of life insurance examinations again came before the society and was followed by general discussion. The following motion was made and seconded, that Dr. I. B. Ladd be notified to appear at the next meeting of the society and prove to the society that he is complying with the rules of the society in charging \$5 for all old line insurance examination, and in the event of his not doing so he is thereby expelled from the society. Carried.

A letter from the San Joaquin County Subdivision of the California Branch of the American National Red Cross Association was read, asking advice as to the best way of expending the \$1000 they possessed in the crusade against tuberculosis. It was moved and carried that the chair appoint a committee to reply to same. The chair appointed Drs. Hoisholt, Latta and Harry.

A general discussion regarding the entertaining the coming meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Medical Society was entered into, and it was moved and seconded that the chair appoint a committee on entertainment, reception and banquet. Carried. The following committees were appointed:

Committee on Entertainment—Drs. Fred Clark, Hoisholt, Harry, Powell, Knight, H. Smyth and E. A. Arthur.

Committee on Banquet—Drs. Hammond, Powell, F. R. Clark, Walker and Langdon.

Committee on Reception—Drs. Ray, Harbert, Taggart, Powell, Johnson and Blackman.

Dr. Kerr was unable to reach the city, and his place was taken by Professor Fait, who gave a demonstration and explained the action of suggestion, which proved to be very interesting.

After refreshments served by Dr. Hull, the society adjourned.

SONOMA COUNTY.

The Sonoma County Medical Society met in Dr. Seawell's court-rooms, Dr. W. J. Kerr presiding. A

short debate on "Fer Don," who is able to keep a troupe of negro minstrels and hire the biggest hall in the city, skating rink, for some two weeks or more. The question was, should we interfere. We finally concluded it would do no good.

We changed our regular meeting night to first Friday at 8 p. m. Dr. L. Lain, who has been treasurer several years, gave her report that the society had on hand \$59.42. All bills were paid for 1908. The secretary, Dr. Mallory, reported an addition of five new members during 1908; two deaths; suspension for non-payment of dues, two; two transfers given, leaving 47 members. One of the members, who is aged, was made an honorary member. We love wisdom, and who is more useful to a medical society than a man who has spent a half century studying how to relieve and prevent suffering? An application for membership was made.

Dr. W. J. Kerr gave the paper of the evening—subject, "Typhoid Fever, Symptoms and Treatment." He gave the usual clinical and bacterial tests. The doctor has had eighteen cases of typhoid since July; no casualties. Treatment, if children, followed in a measure. Woodbridge believed in intestinal antiseptics, especially castor oil, enema of cold water at 75%, two to four quarts once or twice daily. His paper was a practical one and the speaker was highly complimented on this admirable paper.

Dr. W. C. Shipley always gave calomel and salines; believed in antiseptics; had had many cases in the mines; used sulphocarbolates. Dr. F. O. Pryor thought the routine of the great hospitals—no antiseptics, hydrotherapy, nourishing diet, good nursing—would be the best.

Dr. C. H. Thompson told us how prevalent was typhoid in Philadelphia in the sixties and spoke of the then treatment. He favored hydrotherapy.

Dr. Mallory favored initial dose of calomel followed by salt, antiseptics, Brant's Bath, high injection, castor oil, good feeding, digestives.

We adjourned to Campi Restaurant for a banquet. The next meeting will be held in Cloverdale, February 20, at 8 p. m.

Dr. H. J. Trachman will give the paper, "Diseases and Treatment of the Larynx." On discussion, W. C. Shipley, F. E. Sohler and S. Z. Peoples.

Citrus Fair at Cloverdale, February 19, 20, 22.

G. W. MALLORY, Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS.

Handbook of Diseases of the Skin. By Geo. Thos. Jackson.

This is the sixth edition of this interesting and convenient book. The subjects are arranged alphabetically and the important points of all skin diseases are well brought out. Very little notice is given to radio-therapy and photo-therapy, but in a book of this size a detailed description of electricity and the modern therapeutic lights would be out of place. Dr. Jackson has recently been made Professor of Dermatology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. We are glad to see that Dr. Jackson has the interest and enthusiasm to keep his book thoroughly revised, and it can be recommended as the most useful book on skin diseases for the busy physician. H. M.

The Practitioners' Visiting List for 1909. An invaluable pocket-sized book containing memoranda and data important for every physician, and ruled blanks for recording every detail of practice. The Weekly, Monthly and 30-Patient Perpetual contain 32 pages of data and 160 pages of classified blanks. The 60-Patient Perpetual consists of 256 pages of blanks alone. Each in one wallet-shaped book, bound in flexible leather, with flap and pocket, pencil and rubber, and calendar for two years. Price by mail, postpaid, to any address, \$1.25. Thumb-letter index, 25 cents extra. De-